



Farnham Board - meeting notes

24 March 2023



Minutes

Date & Time:	24 March 2023, 10:00-11:30
Venue:	Hybrid Meeting - Farnham Town Council Offices
Chair:	Cllr Tim Oliver
In attendance:	Cllr Matt Furniss, Cllr Michaela Martin, Cllr Catherine Powell, Cllr Andy MacLeod, Cllr Paul Follows, Cllr Peter Clark, Cllr David Beaman
Observers:	David Stempfer, Elaine Martin, Katie Ludvigsen, Anna Miller, Mohammed Ali, Iain Lynch, Chris Greenwood, Alex Pye, Pat Evans, Richard Nelson, Neil McClure, Richard Franklin
Apologies:	Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

	Item
1	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>The Chair welcomed attendees to the hybrid meeting and extended his thanks to people from Farnham Town Council, Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council for their work to drive this forward to delivery over the coming months.</p> <p>Apologies for absence was noted from Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP.</p>
2	<p>Actions and minutes from the last meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting 16 December 2022 have previously been circulated. David Stempfer provided a brief update on discussions around the Upper Hart Link following the last meeting, confirming that this was not part of the Town Centre improvement scope, but could be considered at a later date.</p> <p>Cllr David Beaman asked if the Chair had received the Farnham Town Council paper on the Upper Hart and it was confirmed that it had not been received.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllr Beaman to share the report with the Board.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.</p>
3	<p>Short and Medium-Term Interventions update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayfinding Strategy • 20mph Limits/ Zones and Speed restrictions • Reclassifying of the A325 • Borelli Park and Stride • Water Lane Roundabout <p>Elaine Martin provided an update on work which has been undertaken since the last meeting. The A325 reclassification work has been completed and conversations are still underway with Google Maps to get their information updated. The HGV restriction work is now completed, but dialogue is still underway with Hampshire County Council to ensure their signage reflects these restrictions. The wayfinding map signs are currently being installed, with 7 out of 13 completed and the remaining 6 will be installed from May 2023 with discussions underway with landowners.</p>

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	<p>The 20mph speed limit in Weydon Lane, Upper Hale Road and Farnham Town Centre has been approved by Surrey County Council Highways and the local County Councillors. The Town Centre and Weydon Lane works have been approved to go to construction and work is being programmed in. Although the speed limit in Upper Hale Road has been approved, the physical measures have been amended following feedback from the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to change the proposed speed cushions to speed tables and to include a crossing point adjacent to Spring Lane. This will go out for re-consultation in June 23.</p> <p>Borelli Park and Stride scheme was identified as one of the priority Medium-Term interventions, a route within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and has funding from development. Elaine Martin shared a plan of the proposed site and gave an overview of the different elements. It was noted that the proposed bridge as part of the Brightwells development was yet to be approved. The Chair clarified the issue with the proposed bridge is that it would be too narrow for both pedestrians and cyclists to use simultaneously. Iain Lynch highlighted an alternative bridge and footpath proposal which had been discussed at the recent Farnham Town Council meeting. Elaine Martin clarified that the existing bridge was a Waverley BC asset, but that Surrey had a right of way route across it. David Stempfer confirmed that discussions with the developer, Transport Development Planning and Waverly Borough Council were underway regarding the bridge and possible options. Cllr Andy MacLeod supported David Stempfer's suggestions and highlighted the need for a cycle bridge into the new Brightwell's Development.</p> <p>Elaine Martin provided an overview of the proposal to amend Water Lane junction following complaints around lane discipline with the current lane markings. Total costs of the work would be £505,000. Funding of £405,000 has been awarded by Waverley's Community Infrastructure Levy, with £100,000 of developer contributions. Elaine Martin explained that the Water Lane junction improvements will also include a new toucan crossing to encourage active travel.</p> <p>Cllr Beaman asked about the timescales for the implementations of the 20mph zones and asked whether it could be extended up Castle Hill, as this view had been strongly shared at a recent Town Council meeting. Elaine Martin confirmed that implementation of 20mph speed limits Phase 1 works at Weydon Lane and the Town Centre would start in June 23. The second phase would come later after the TRO consultation work following the amended proposals. Elaine Martin recommended waiting to assess how the new 20mph impacted the town before work started on any further extensions on 20mph zones. Cllr MacLeod asked whether the road barriers, which are often damaged by vehicles, would be able to be removed once the 20mph zone had been implemented. Elaine Martin confirmed that this would be part of the Town Centre project and alternatives to barriers, such as planting could also be considered. The Chair confirmed that extending the 20mph was not under consideration at the moment but could be considered after the current planned works had been implemented.</p> <p>Iain Lynch highlighted the concerns from the Town Council regarding the impact of new street furniture for the 20mph scheme on Castle Street adjacent to listed buildings on the road. Elaine Martin confirmed that discussions had been undertaken with Waverley BC and Surrey CC Heritage teams and Historic England who are all comfortable with the style proposed for the temporary furniture.</p> <p>Cllr Catherine Powell asked around timescales for installation of signage by Hampshire County Council at the M3 junction. Elaine Martin confirmed that timescales had not been given for this by Hampshire CC at the regular project meetings. Cllr Powell highlighted that the Community HGV watch was still ongoing and at meetings with HGV operators they indicated that the route is still not clearly signposted. Cllr Powell asked if the signage could be raised with Hampshire County Council to get hopefully get this installed as soon possible. The</p>

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	<p>Chair confirmed that he was meeting with Hampshire CC shortly and would raise this item then.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllr Tim Oliver to raise A3 HGV signage at his upcoming meeting with the Leader of Hampshire County Council</p>
4	<p>Town Centre update</p> <p>Chris Greenwood (Atkins) presented an overview of the findings from the Summer 2022 consultation and attendees were reminded that that Option B had been the preferred option from the public consultation.</p> <p>A map was shared of Option B which highlighted a green shaded area of the town where the consultation proposals were accepted at the December 2022 Farnham Board, subject to decisions on the detail such as public seating and loading bay locations, and a purple area where the views on the proposals were mixed and required further decisions and traffic modelling.</p> <p>The options presented for the town were shown with routing plans, advantages and disadvantages highlighted for each one.</p> <p>Option V – minimal change</p> <p>Cllr Beaman expressed concern and need, on behalf of Farnham Town Council at the proposal to include traffic lights at the junction on South Street and Union Road.</p> <p>Option W – South Street cycle or bus improvements</p> <p>It was clarified by Chris Greenwood that this option would be able to provide improvements for either cyclists or buses, but not both.</p> <p>Cllr Beaman commented that he did not feel that the number of buses currently using South Street would justify a bus lane being installed.</p> <p>Cllr MacLeod agreed with Cllr Beaman’s comment and commented that the existing cycle lane should be moved to the opposite side of the road where there are less entrances onto the road. Cllr MacLeod also highlighted the need to consider traffic light phasing at the Royal Deer junction if a two-way cycle lane was installed on South Street.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Clark highlighted the current usage of South Street and that capacity is often stretched with the current road layout and feels that traffic modelling would be key to consider the impact of this proposed option.</p> <p>The Chair commented that it was appropriate that this option had been included within the set of proposals but acknowledged the lack of support for the option from attendees.</p> <p>Option X – East Street Closed Option Y – East Street Bus only Option Z – Reverse East St and Woolmead Road Gyrotory</p> <p>The Chair highlighted to attendees the need to narrow down the number of options and felt that two could easily be discounted.</p>

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	<p>Elaine Martin confirmed that the options had been shared with Farnham TC, Waverley BC and Surrey CC members and officers and their feedback has been collated.</p> <p>Elaine Martin commented on the need for the Board to reach collective agreement to narrow the options down and also highlighted the impact that the Woolmead, East Steet (Brightwells) and South Street developments would have on the town in conjunction with this work. The modelling work would take several weeks, so it is important that the Board agrees a reduced number of options that could be taken forward for modelling, which would then be presented and discussed at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>Richard Franklin (Atkins) responded to Cllr MacLeod's previous comment relating to the phasing of lights at Royal Deer junction and confirmed that options for 3 phases for the light were being looked at for multiple Options, not just Option W. Iain Lynch commented that there was a safety issue at the junction as people didn't necessarily cross according to the phasing and requested that officers working on this observed usage of the junction a part of the work.</p> <p>Cllr MacLeod commented that at a recent meeting to discuss the options that the Town Council offered their support for Option V (minimal change) and Option Y. Consideration for deliveries to East Street was also highlighted as a need if Option Y was pursued. The Chair asked Cllr MacLeod for clarification on his comment relating to access to East Street, and whether it was Option X (East Street closed) or Option Y (East Street buses only) which was supported, and whether within Option Y the preference was for the road to be open to just buses, or all traffic. Cllr MacLeod confirmed that Option Y was supported, with access available for buses and possibly cyclists, but with access for deliveries also available. Chris Greenwood commented that access for deliveries and service vehicles would be provided within the plans, but details around this would need to be considered in later stages for the work.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that following discussions and Cllr MacLeod's comments from Farnham Town Council that Option X (East Street closed) would be removed due to lack of support for this option.</p> <p>Cllr Powell highlighted the impact that deliveries to East Street had in relation to bus travel and requested that this was looked at further and highlighted the junction at the opposite end of East Street as a concern. Cllr Powell added support to Option Y but highlighted the need to minimise conflict between pedestrians and cyclists as part of any changes. Cllr Clark supported the proposal to make Woolmead Road two-way, to enable changes to then be made to East Street.</p> <p>The Chair summarised that the discussions so far had provided broad agreement for Options V and Y to be modelled and that Option X had been withdrawn due to lack of support. The Chair asked for board members for thoughts around Option W (bus/cycle improvements to South Street). Cllr Powell suggested that Options V and Y were initially modelled before others were considered, as Option W would reduce South Street down to one lane, which would negatively impact traffic flow in the town. Cllr MacLeod highlighted that one of the leaders of the Local Cycling Campaign does not currently support the cycling in South Street.</p> <p>The Chair summarised that there was no support voiced for Option W and confirmed that officers would go and model Options V and Y.</p> <p>Cllr Beaman asked if the options would impact the traffic lights on Victoria Road. Chris Greenwood confirmed that the proposal was to retain the traffic lights at Victoria Road and to add traffic lights at Union Road, but that this would be subject to the modelling work, which would highlight any issues with these proposals. Elaine Martin highlighted that the recent</p>

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	<p>discussions with Waverley BC around the planning application for the junction had highlighted that is regularly used by vulnerable users and this needed to be considered.</p> <p>Cllr Michaela Martin highlighted the impact to the retail sector of all options and requested that all work undertaken and road closures in the town are well coordinated to minimise the disruption they would cause to retailers. Elaine Martin responded that officers would be reaching out to local businesses to understand their requirements, such as access and delivery times, so that this is shared with the contractors early before any work commences.</p> <p>Cllr Powell requested that a stakeholder engagement session of councillors and local businesses is undertaken so that the impact of works within the town can be fully explored and mitigations can be planned with the contractors. The Chair agreed that this work needed to be carried out in a planned way to minimise disruption to the town.</p> <p>Cllr Clark highlighted the need for improved public transport to increase access into the town from outside the area by those using public transport. Cllr Clark also added support to the request for management of the works within the town to minimise disruption. Cllr Beaman commented that Downing Street is a critical bus route and that the impact that any temporary road closures would have would need to be shared with bus companies with sufficient notice to enable route adaptations to be undertaken.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that Surrey County Council was committed to investing in public transports to enable the shift of residents from cars to public transport or other methods of transport like cycling and highlighted the need to work with the contractors to minimise disruption within the town during the works.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed the collective agreement to take options V and Y forward to the modelling stages, and that the findings would be brought back to the Board at the next meeting.</p> <p>DECISION: Option V and Option Y to be modelled.</p>
5	<p>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) update</p> <p>Elaine Martin provided an update on work which has been undertaken since the previous Board meeting. A workshop was held with Surrey, Waverley and Farnham councillors and officers to discuss the LCWIP, and the report has now been updated following these discussions. Elaine Martin asked the Board to endorse the Strategic Investment Plan following the amendments. The next stage of the work is further engagement on the routes, as some routes which have scored highly need to be assessed for deliverability, feasibility and opportunity of funding.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Powell for their work on the LWCIP. Cllr Powell thanked the programme team for taking on board the councillors' comments and concerns around the feasibility of some of the suggested routes. Cllr Powell proposed the creation of an Active Travel Working Group with the same attendees at the workshop previously mentioned, and this group would work to develop schemes which were feasible, deliverable and avoided conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p>Cllr Clark commented on recent local press relating to the LWCIP and supported the proposal that Stage 2 of the LWCIP proposals would allow all interested local residents to involved in developing the proposals. Cllr Beaman supported the comments of Cllr Powell, and asked whether any of the proposed LCWIP routes were already confirmed. Elaine Martin responded that the routes highlighted in the LWCIP were strategic in nature and essentially were 'highest</p>

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	<p>scoring' routes connected key origins and destinations. These do not preclude others being considered in consultation with local stakeholders. Elaine Martin highlighted that some routes are already being delivered, such as Borelli's, the Town Centre work and Water Lane, which are all schemes to improve walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>Cllr MacLeod supported Cllr Powell's comments and was supportive of a strategic LCWIP rather than fixed routes. The Chair supported Cllr Powell's suggestion and requested that this group was set up to be inclusive to all residents to enable their input. The Chair confirmed the Board's endorsement with the Strategic LCWIP proposals presented.</p>
6	<p>Farnham A31 Corridor update</p> <p>The Chair commented that the Business Case for the A31 Corridor had been submitted to the DfT Investment Committee in November 21 and received positive feedback, but no formal response has been received on the proposals.</p> <p>Iain Lynch asked for an update on discussions with train operations and the land around the station as this would impact on Hickleys Corner. Elaine Martin confirmed that regular meetings are held with rail operators, however all discussions are hinged on the outcome of the DfT bid. Ian Lynch requested that the Town Council were involved at an early stage around any discussions.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed all further work was dependant of a response from DfT on the bid and then conversation around this element could continue.</p>
7	<p>Wrecclesham and Western Bypasses update</p> <p>Elaine Martin highlighted work that Atkins has undertaken on a feasibility report of the environmental and cost impact of the scheme. This report has led to an internal review of the scheme and a draft report on this is underway but is not yet finalised.</p>
8	<p>Adjacent Projects update</p> <p>Wrecclesham Bridge</p> <p>Elaine Martin commented that the Highways Safety Team have been working positively with Network Rail on this. Surrey has worked to cut back vegetation to improve visibility and in April 23 Network Rail will start work on replacing the chevrons on the top of the bridge. The road will also be closed, at a later date, to allow for the structure to be painted in a lighter colour and other works by Network Rail, as this is unable to take place due to the current closure of West Street for water works.</p> <p>Cllr Martin expressed disappointment that an option of a tunnel alongside the bridge has been discounted. Elaine Martin confirmed that the report written by the Highways Safety Team work had related to bridge strikes, rather than pedestrian access, but that this option had been included within the report.</p> <p>A31 Speed Management Scheme</p>

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	<p>Elaine Martin shared that this work is also being delivered by the Highways Safety Team. The work as gone out to consultation and no objections were received. A map was shared with attendees to highlight the area of road where the speed limit will be reduced from 60pmh to 50mph.</p>
9	<p>Programme and Risk update</p> <p>Elaine Martin provided an overview of the key milestones for the projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a slight delay with the wayfinding mapping due to the complexity of the artwork and the permissions surrounding private land. Therefore some wayfinding totems are outstanding; those to be sited at the station (Network Rail land) and Brightwell's Yard. • A delay in the 20pmh work was highlighted, due to the need to undertake a second consultation, following revisions to the physical proposals. • New dates for the Borelli's and Water Lane work will be presented at the next Board meeting following profiling work. • The LCWIP milestone has now changed, as this is a strategic document for 10 years of investment. • The DfT Business Case was submitted in November 2021 but a formal response has not yet been received and is outside of Surrey CC's control. <p>Elaine Martin highlighted the programme risks in relation to the current economic climate, along with changing government policies relating to the work. Key opportunities to resurface Farnham Park, South Street and Union Road have arisen, enabling this work to be undertaken sooner than was planned.</p> <p>Cllr Clark commented that he hoped that after the June meeting the Board would be able to progress to the next steps of planning and delivery to enable the projected completed date of October 2025 to be met for the works to the Town Centre. The Chair confirmed that he was aware of the need to deliver as quickly as possible and was committed that officers would continue to progress the work quickly. The Chair thanked all 3 councils for their work to get the schemes to this stage.</p>
10	<p>Questions and discussion</p> <p>No public questions were submitted in advance of the meeting.</p>
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>There will be workshops for the 3 Council to be held to discuss the next stages of the works for the town. Elaine Martin asked for details of the programme of upcoming meetings for Waverley and Farnham councils, so that workshops could fit into this so that they can be discussed at council meetings.</p> <p>The next meeting is 16 June 2023 and will be held at Farnham Town Council.</p>